

MARVEL  
COMICS

THE SHROUD RETURNS TO STALK

the  
**SPECTACULAR  
SPIDER-MAN**

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AND  
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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**



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WHAT WAS THAT?!

MY SPIDER-SENSE HITS ME LIKE A KNIFE, LIKE SOMETHING'S HURTLING STRAIGHT AT ME.

THEN IT SHUTS OFF LIKE THERE'S NO PROBLEM!



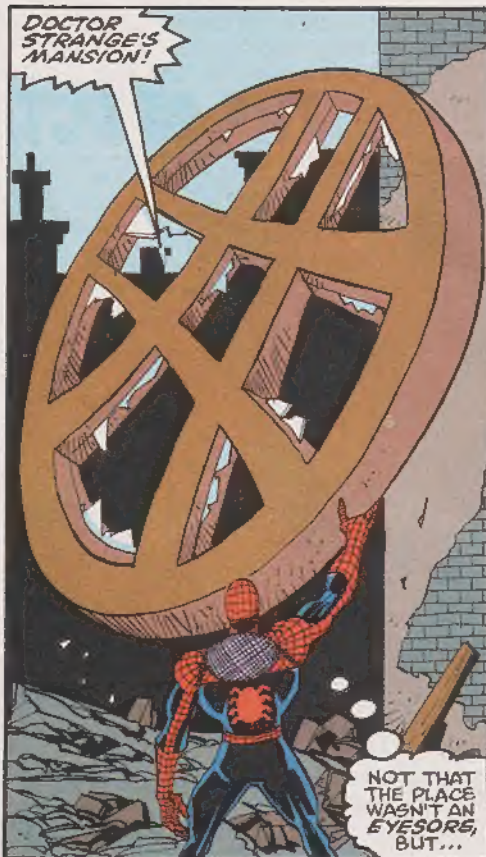
NOTHING HERE BUT A VACANT LOT. WEIRD.



WAIT A MINUTE! I WAS THROUGH HERE A COUPLE DAYS AGO AND THIS WASN'T A VACANT LOT THEN!

UH-OH!

NOW I REMEMBER WHAT THIS USED TO BE!



DOCTOR STRANGE'S MANSION!

NOT THAT THE PLACE WASN'T AN EYESORE, BUT...



I SURE HOPE THIS MEANS DOC QUIT THE MAGIC BIZ AND PLANS TO BUILD A MINI-MALL HERE--

--OR MAYBE I DON'T HOPE THAT, BECAUSE THE STUFF HE'S INTO, I CAN'T HANDLE!



MAYBE NO ONE CAN! ONE THING'S CERTAIN--

--WHEREVER DOC IS... WHATEVER HAPPENED... I'M NOT GETTING SO MUCH AS A BUZZ OFF THIS RUBBLE...

\*WHAT HAPPENED IS "THE SIEGE OF DARKNESS," CHRONICLED IN THE MID-NIGHT SONS BOOKS! --MARK

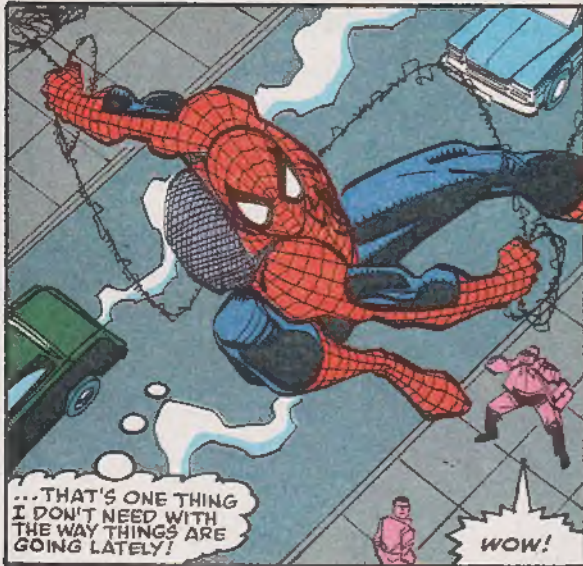


AND SINCE THERE'S NO THREAT I CAN SEE... I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO... AND SOMEONE TO SEE.

I HOPE THERE'S NOT SOMETHING GOING WRONG WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE ..

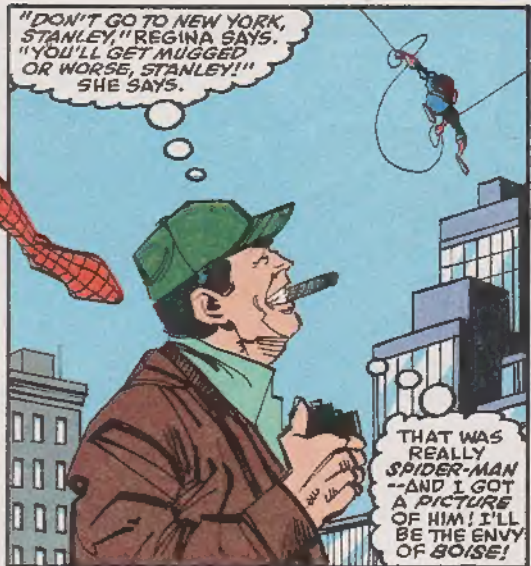
THWIPP





... THAT'S ONE THING I DON'T NEED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING LATELY!

WOW!



"DON'T GO TO NEW YORK, STANLEY," REGINA SAYS. "YOU'LL GET MUGGED OR WORSE, STANLEY!" SHE SAYS.

THAT WAS REALLY SPIDER-MAN --AND I GOT A PICTURE OF HIM! I'LL BE THE ENVY OF BOISE!



HEY! I JUST THOUGHT--

-- PAPERS HERE PAY GOOD MONEY FOR PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN!



WONK

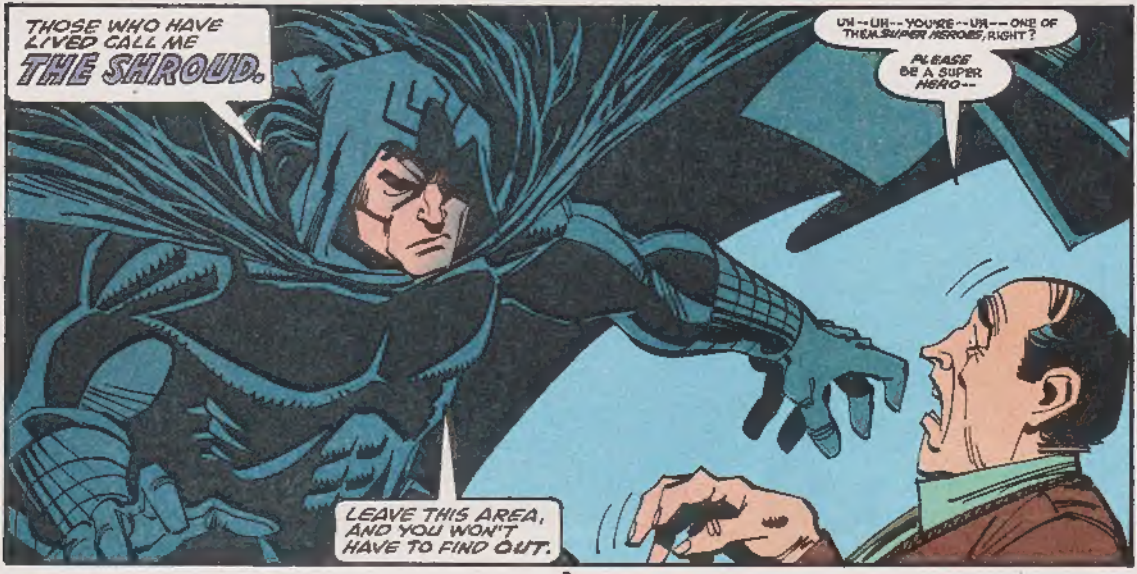
WHAT THE--?!



DARK-- AT THREE IN THE AFTER-NOON?! WHAT IS THIS, ALASKA?!

SOUND... DARKNESS--?

W-W-WHO--?



THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED CALL ME THE SHROUD.

UH--UH-- YOU'RE--UH-- ONE OF THEM SUPER HEROES, RIGHT?

PLEASE BE A SUPER HERO--

LEAVE THIS AREA, AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT.



THAT WAS LUCKY.  
I'M NOT INTERESTED  
IN FACING SPIDER-  
MAN ON HIS TURE.

YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT HE  
SAW ME, BUT HE WAS SIMPLY  
REACTING TO MY PRESENCE.

IN OUR EARLIER  
ENCOUNTER\*, I  
REALIZED HE HAS  
SPECIAL SENSES,  
POWERFUL BUT  
UNTRAINED,  
REACTING TO  
THREATS.

BY STOPPING DEAD  
IN MY TRACKS, I  
REMOVED MYSELF  
AS AN IMMEDIATE  
THREAT-- AND HID  
MYSELF IN DARKNESS.

MY MISSION IS IMPORTANT\*--  
AND HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO  
JEOPARDIZE IT.

\*WAAAAAY  
BACK IN  
MARVEL  
TEAM UP  
#84--  
MARK

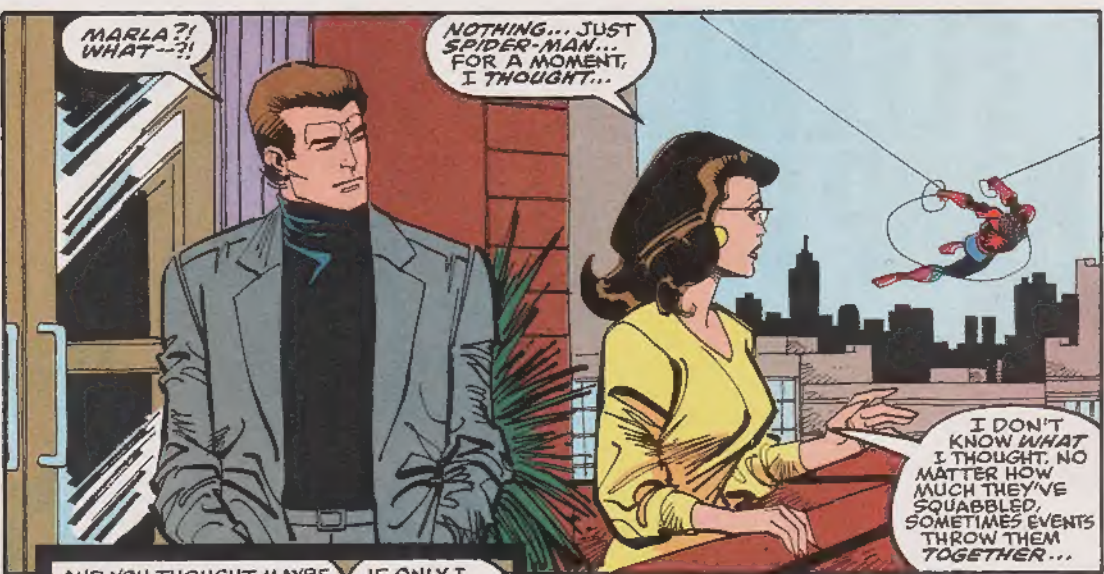
AS LONG AS I  
CONTINUE TO  
INFILTRATE THE  
UNDERWORLD IN  
THE GUISE OF A  
SUPER-VILLAIN  
HE WILL TREAT ME  
AS AN ENEMY--

\*SEE THE FORTHCOMING SHROUDED  
LIMITED SERIES. (THIS IS THE  
LAST FOOTNOTE! HONEST!)--MARK

"--AND I MUST TREAT SPIDER-MAN  
AS THE SAME!"

THINGS SEEM TO  
HAVE SETTLED  
DOWN...GOOD.  
THE LAST THING  
I WANT TODAY IS  
ANOTHER PROBLEM...

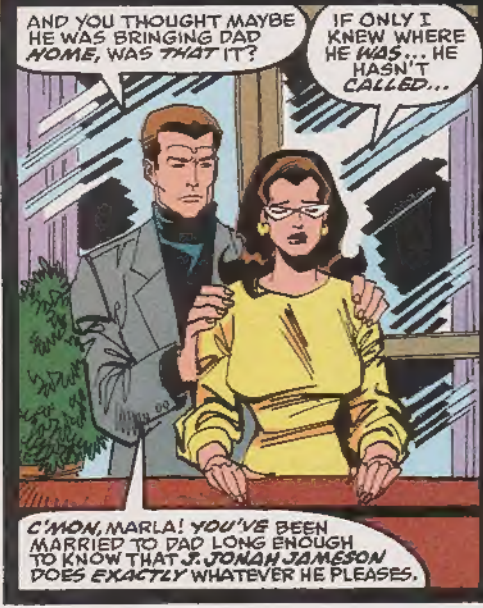




MARLA?!  
WHAT--?!

NOTHING... JUST  
SPIDER-MAN...  
FOR A MOMENT,  
I THOUGHT...

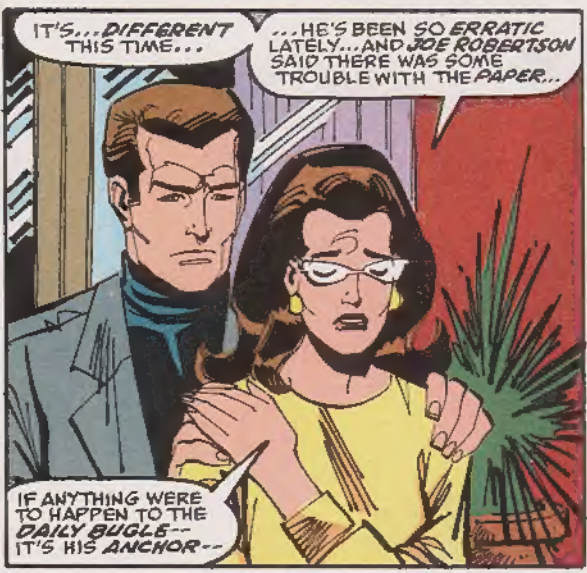
I DON'T  
KNOW *WHAT*  
I THOUGHT. NO  
MATTER HOW  
MUCH THEY'VE  
SQUABBLED,  
SOMETIMES EVENTS  
THROW THEM  
TOGETHER...



AND YOU THOUGHT MAYBE  
HE WAS BRINGING DAD  
HOME, WAS THAT IT?

IF ONLY I  
KNEW WHERE  
HE *WAS*... HE  
HASN'T  
CALLED...

C'MON, MARLA! YOU'VE BEEN  
MARRIED TO DAD LONG ENOUGH  
TO KNOW THAT J. JONAH JAMESON  
DOES EXACTLY WHATEVER HE PLEASES.



IT'S... *DIFFERENT*  
THIS TIME...

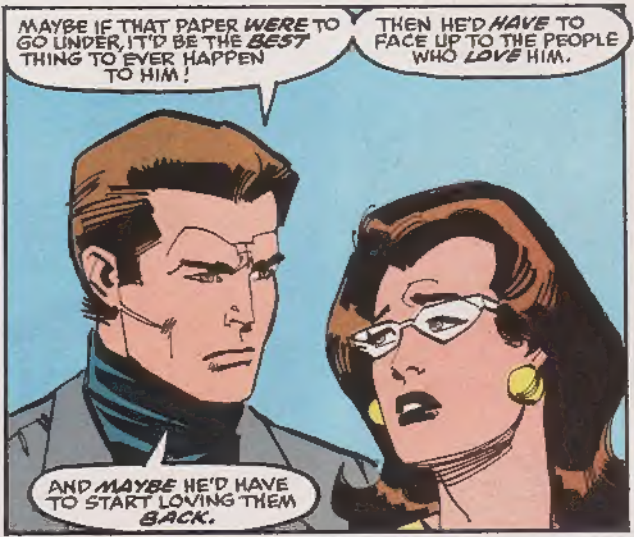
...HE'S BEEN SO ERRATIC  
LATELY... AND JOE ROBERTSON  
SAID THERE WAS SOME  
TROUBLE WITH THE PAPER...

IF ANYTHING WERE  
TO HAPPEN TO THE  
*DAILY BUGLE*--  
IT'S HIS ANCHOR--



YOU'RE HIS  
WIFE! YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE HIS ANCHOR!

DAD'S ALWAYS USED  
THAT BLASTED PAPER  
AS A BARRIER TO KEEP  
PEOPLE AWAY!



MAYBE IF THAT PAPER *WERE* TO  
GO UNDER, IT'D BE THE *BEST*  
THING TO EVER HAPPEN  
TO HIM!

THEN HE'D HAVE TO  
FACE UP TO THE PEOPLE  
WHO *LOVE* HIM.

AND *MAYBE* HE'D HAVE  
TO START LOVING THEM  
*BACK*.





MAN... HOSPITALS! YECCH! I HATE THESE PLACES!

IT'S A SMALL MIRACLE I HAVEN'T ENDED UP IN ONE YET.



BUT MARY JANE'S RIGHT-- I'VE PUT THIS OFF LONG ENOUGH!

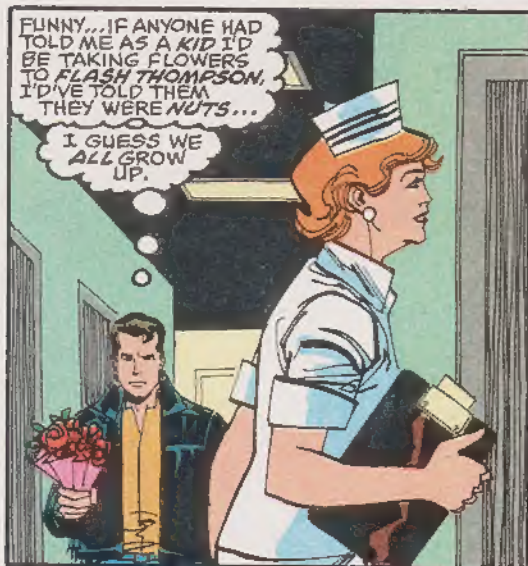
IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE FLASH WAS BEATEN HALF TO DEATH BY TOMBSTONE\*

\* SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #205. --MARK. (OKAY, SO I LIED.)



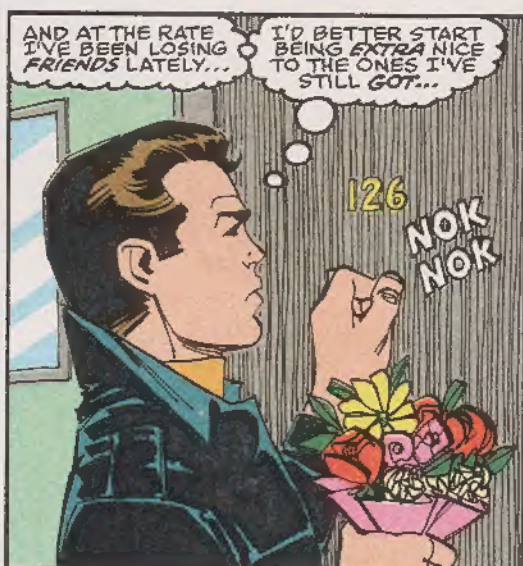
--AND MAYBE SOME OF IT WAS ROUGH, BUT I GO FURTHER BACK WITH HIM THAN WITH PRACTICALLY ANYONE...

OH, THE "GET WELL" BOUQUET. OUR BEST SELLER, EVERYONE JUST LOVES THEM.



FUNNY... IF ANYONE HAD TOLD ME AS A KID I'D BE TAKING FLOWERS TO FLASH THOMPSON, I'D'VE TOLD THEM THEY WERE NUTS...

I GUESS WE ALL GROW UP.

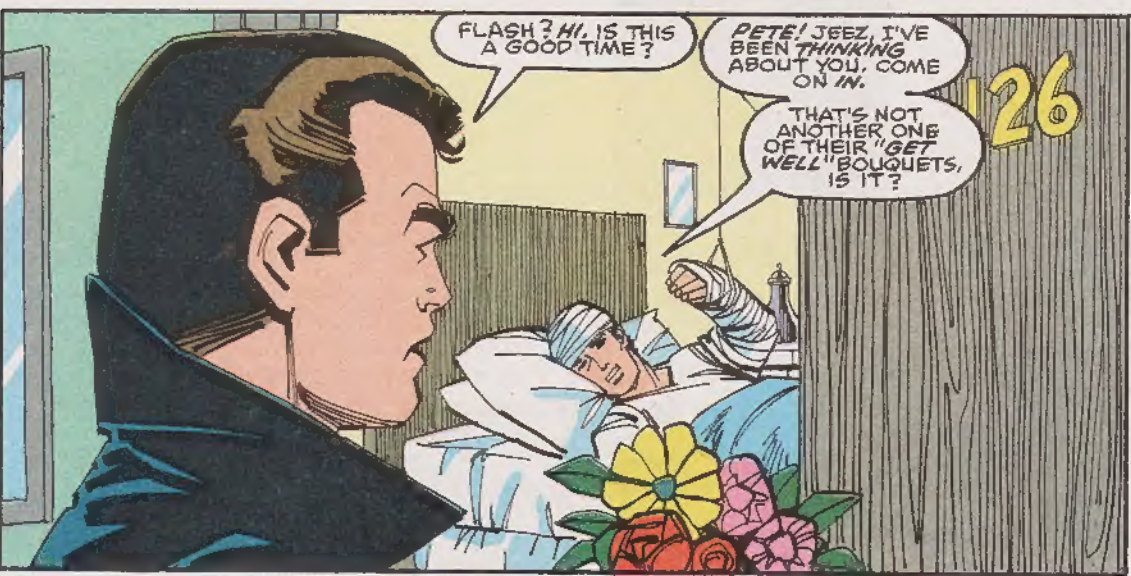


AND AT THE RATE I'VE BEEN LOSING FRIENDS LATELY...

I'D BETTER START BEING EXTRA NICE TO THE ONES I'VE STILL GOT...

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NOK NOK



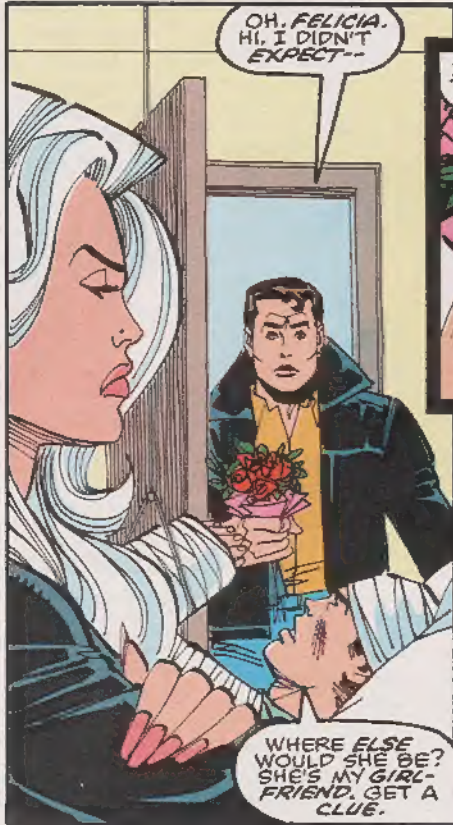
FLASH? HI, IS THIS A GOOD TIME?

PETE! JEEZ, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU, COME ON IN.

THAT'S NOT ANOTHER ONE OF THEIR "GET WELL" BOUQUETS, IS IT?

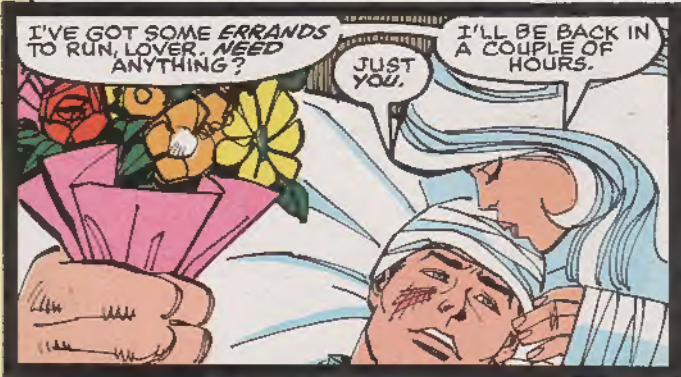
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OH, FELICIA. HI, I DIDN'T EXPECT--

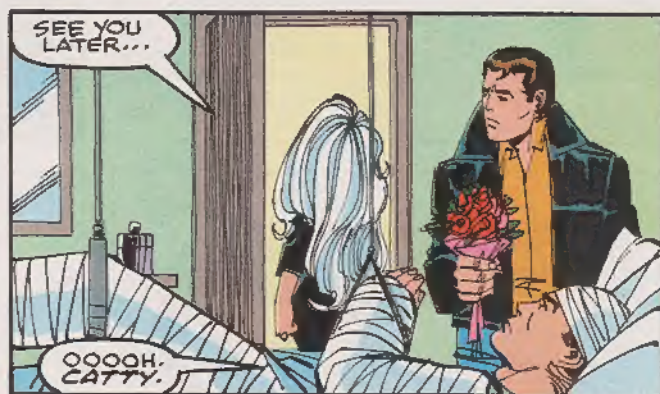
WHERE ELSE WOULD SHE BE? SHE'S MY GIRL-FRIEND. GET A CLUE.



I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN. NEED ANYTHING?

JUST YOU.

I'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.



SEE YOU LATER...

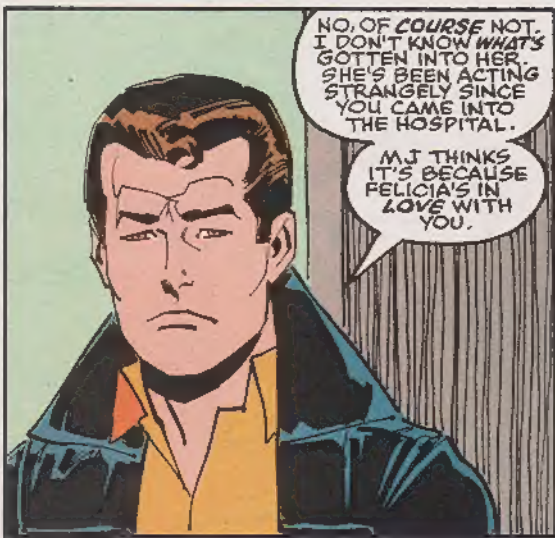
OOOOH. CATTY.



WHAT'S WITH YOU AND FELICIA, PETE\*? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER COLD SHOULDER ANYONE LIKE THAT SINCE THE FIRST TIME I HIT ON HER.

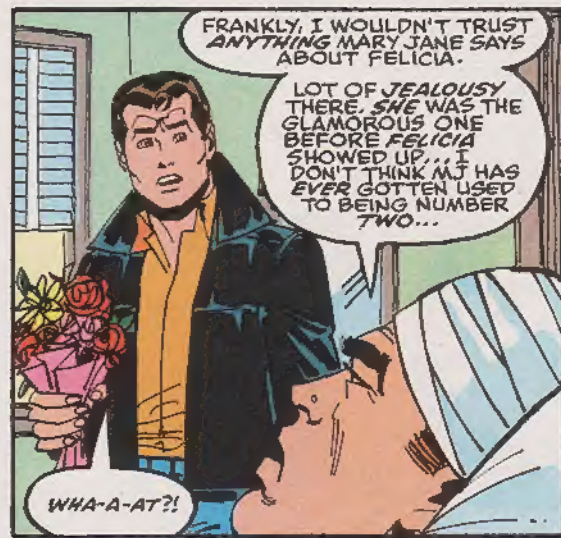
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG BETWEEN YOU GUYS, IS THERE?

\* FOR THE ANSWER, SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #205-206. MARK. (STOP ME BEFORE I FOOTNOTE AGAIN!)



NO, OF COURSE NOT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER. SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY SINCE YOU CAME INTO THE HOSPITAL.

MJ THINKS IT'S BECAUSE FELICIA'S IN LOVE WITH YOU.

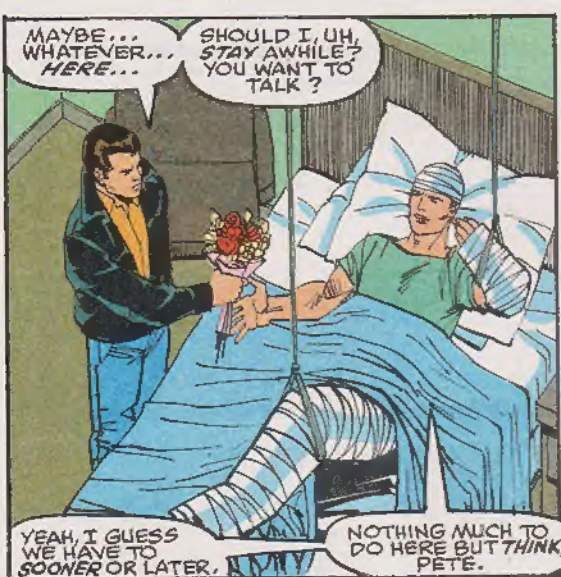


FRANKLY, I WOULDN'T TRUST ANYTHING MARY JANE SAYS ABOUT FELICIA.

LOT OF JEALOUSY THERE. SHE WAS THE GLAMOROUS ONE BEFORE FELICIA SHOWED UP. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER GOTTEN USED TO BEING NUMBER TWO...

WHA-A-AT?!





MAYBE...  
WHATEVER...  
HERE...

SHOULD I, UH,  
STAY AWHILE?  
YOU WANT TO  
TALK?

YEAH, I GUESS  
WE HAVE TO  
SOONER OR LATER.

NOTHING MUCH TO  
DO HERE BUT THINK,  
PETE.



I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT SINCE  
I GOT HERE... REALLY THINKING,  
MAYBE FOR THE FIRST TIME...

EVER READ  
RILKE?  
PETE?

THE  
POET?!  
YOU READ  
POETRY?

SURE, WHY  
WOULDN'T I?

"THERE IS NO PLACE  
THAT DOES NOT SEE YOU,  
YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR  
LIFE," RILKE WROTE THAT.



I THINK A LOT OF THINGS  
IN MY LIFE HAVE TO CHANGE.

ARE WE  
FRIENDS,  
PETE?

WHAT?  
OF  
COURSE!  
WHY?



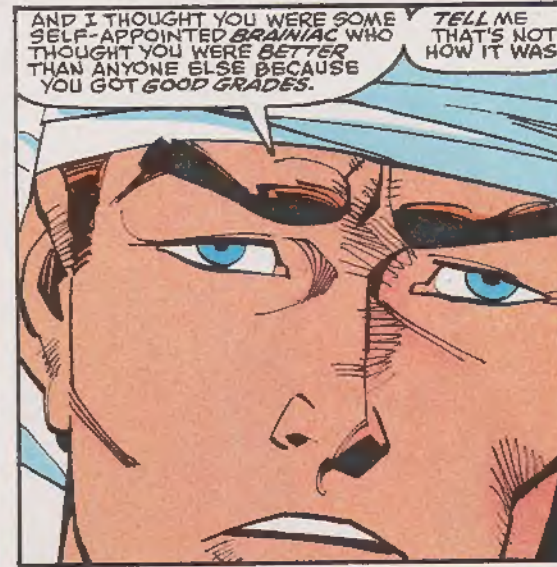
YOU SURE? WHAT'D YOU  
THINK OF ME IN HIGH  
SCHOOL?

LOOK, I'M NOT  
LOOKING FOR A  
FIGHT.



I'M TIRED, I'M BEATEN UP,  
I'M NOT GETTING YOUNGER.  
ALL I WANT IS SOME  
TRUTH IN MY LIFE.

FACT IS-- IN HIGH  
SCHOOL, YOU  
THOUGHT I WAS  
SOME CRUDE,  
BRAINLESS  
JOCK.



AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME  
SELF-APPOINTED BRAINIAC WHO  
THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER  
THAN ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE  
YOU GOT GOOD GRADES.

TELL ME  
THAT'S NOT  
HOW IT WAS.





UM... MAYBE WE SHOULD CONTINUE THIS WHEN YOU'RE OFF MEDICATION...



FOR SUCH A SMART GUY, SOMETIMES YOU'RE REALLY...

LISTEN TO YOU! WE'RE NOT FRIENDS! FRIENDS TALK! I WAS HARRY OSBORN'S FRIEND, NOT YOURS!

AND YOU WERE HARRY'S FRIEND, NOT MINE. AND NOW HARRY'S GONE...



IF WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER DOESN'T MAKE US FRIENDS, WHAT DOES?

THAT JUST MAKES US GUYS WHO KNOW EACH OTHER. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT.



WHEN HAVE WE EVER DONE WHAT FRIENDS DO? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE WENT TO A BALL GAME TOGETHER?



WE-- UM... AH...

WE COULD ALWAYS GO TO ONE...

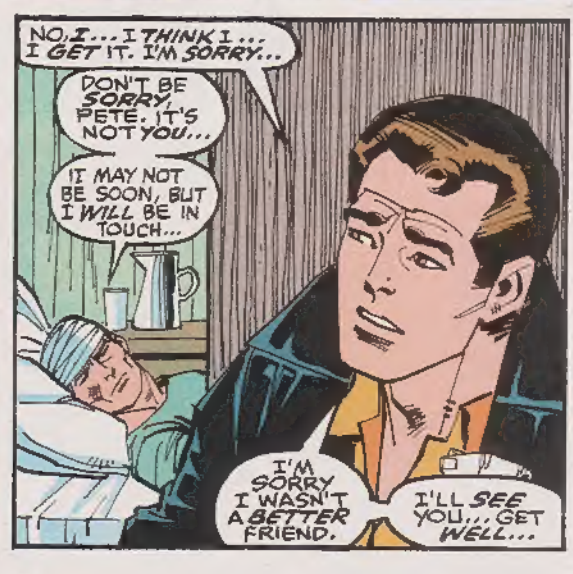
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.



I MEAN... I'M NOT TRYING TO HURT YOU, PETE. I'M REALLY NOT. IT'S JUST...

I GOT TO CHANGE THINGS, YOU KNOW? I CAN'T WASTE ENERGY ANYMORE.

I WANT TO CHANGE MY LIFE.



NO, I... I THINK I... I GET IT. I'M SORRY...

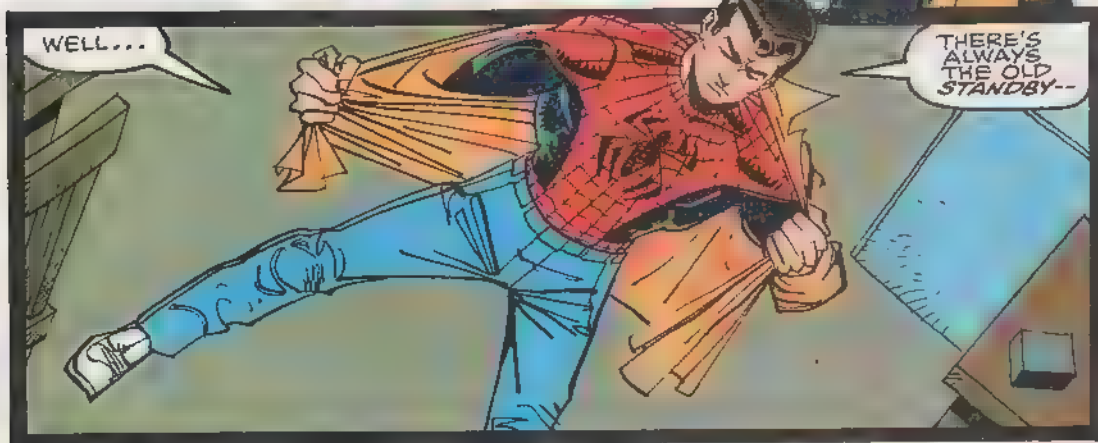
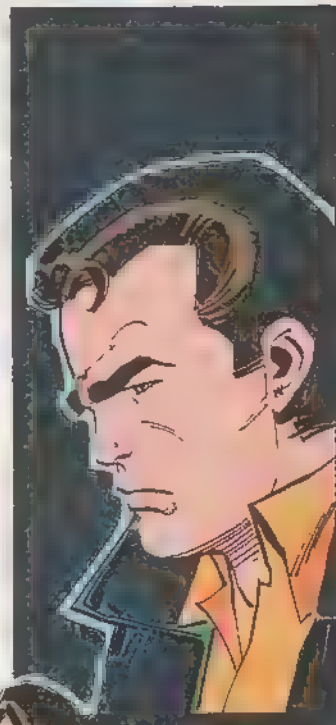
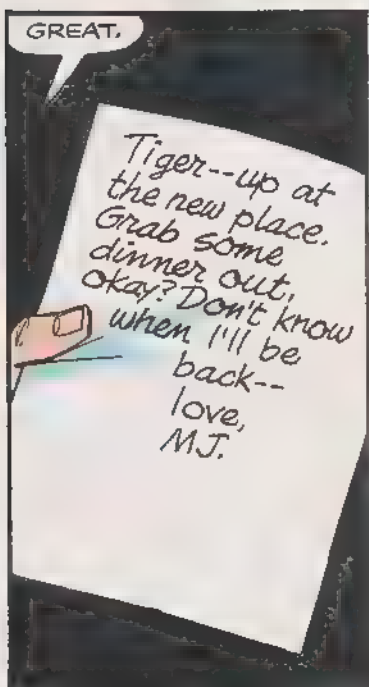
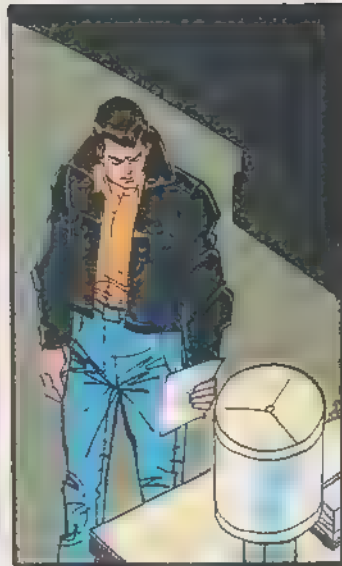
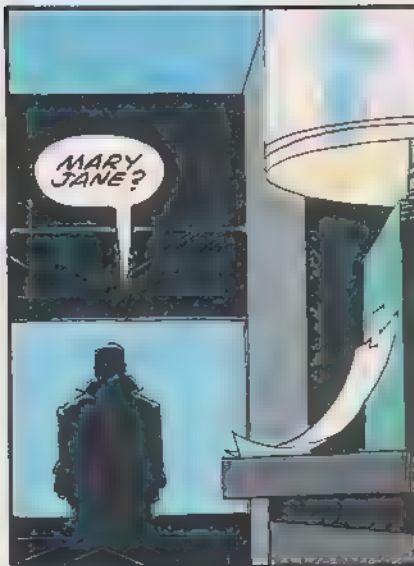
DON'T BE SORRY PETE. IT'S NOT YOU...

IT MAY NOT BE SOON, BUT I WILL BE IN TOUCH...

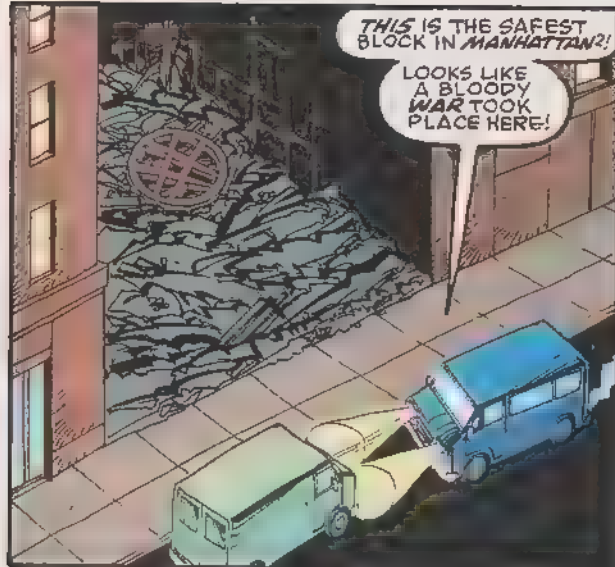
I'M SORRY I WASN'T A BETTER FRIEND.

I'LL SEE YOU... GET WELL...



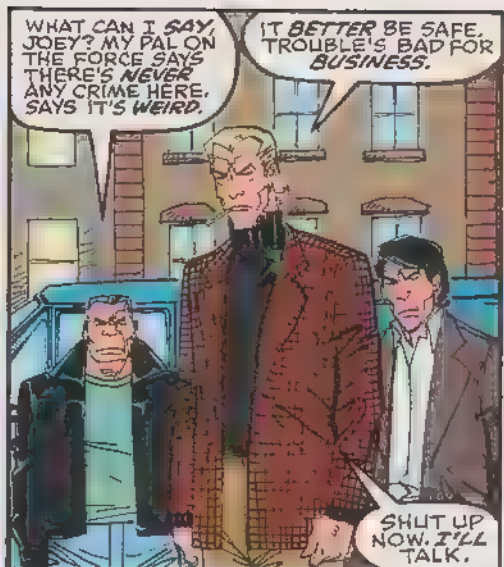






THIS IS THE SAFEST BLOCK IN MANHATTAN?!

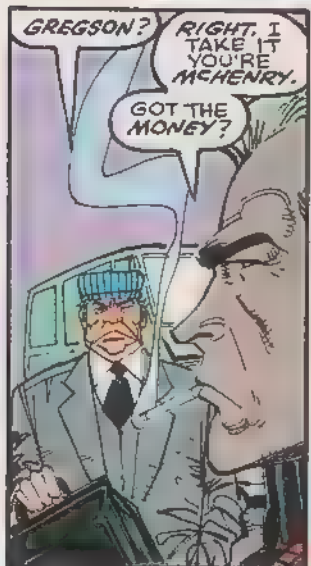
LOOKS LIKE A BLOODY WAR TOOK PLACE HERE!



WHAT CAN I SAY, JOEY? MY PAL ON THE FORCE SAYS THERE'S NEVER ANY CRIME HERE. SAYS IT'S WEIRD.

IT BETTER BE SAFE. TROUBLE'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.

SHUT UP NOW, I'LL TALK.



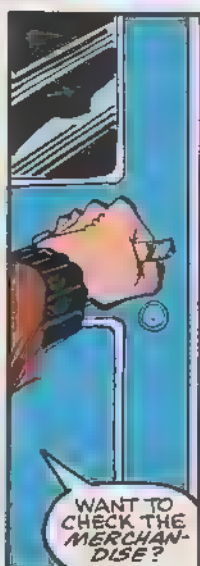
GREGSON?

RIGHT, I TAKE IT YOU'RE MCHENRY.

GOT THE MONEY?



YEHHHHHH... GOOD.



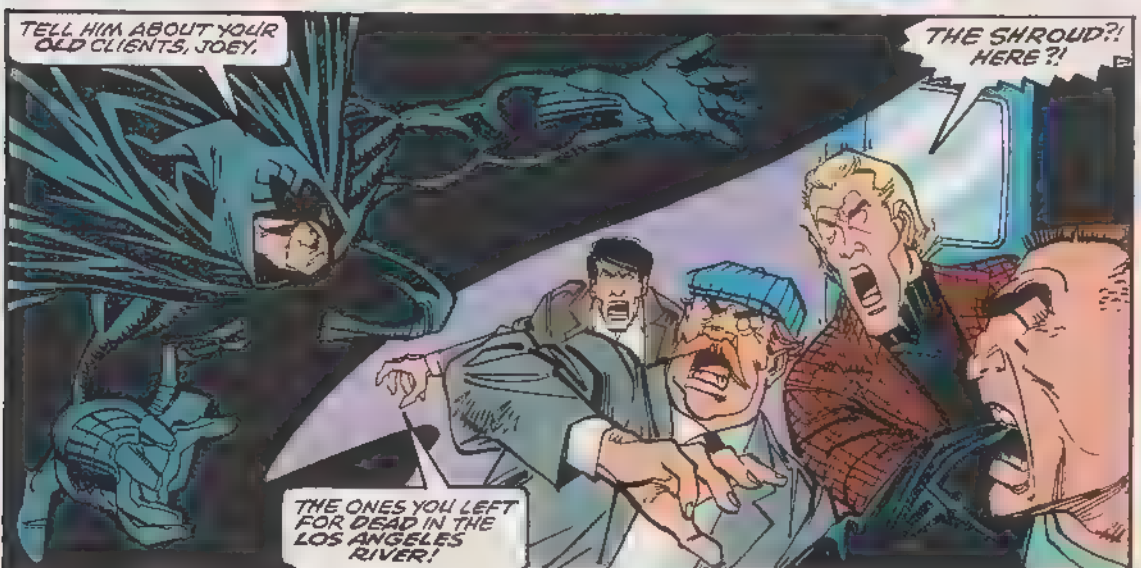
WANT TO CHECK THE MERCHANDISE?



THESE RIFLES ARE ALL STATE OF THE ART?

YEAH, TOP GRADE. THREW IN A COUPLE BOXES OF GRENADES, TOO. A GOOD WILL GESTURE...

...SEEING AS HOW WE'LL BE DOING BUSINESS REGULAR...



TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR OLD CLIENTS, JOEY.

THE SHROUD?! HERE?!

THE ONES YOU LEFT FOR DEAD IN THE LOS ANGELES RIVER!



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE WEST COAST!

**KILL HIM!**

WE ALL HAVE BUSINESSES TO RUN, JOEY!

KILL--?! NO!

I MUSTN'T BE CONNECTED WITH ANY CRIMES-- NOT IN THE STATES!

WE'RE GUNRUNNING, YOU BLOATED SACK OF-- I THINK THAT'S NOT A CRIME?!

MY BUSINESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, JOEY.

YOU'RE A BONUS -- EXERCISE WHILE I'M WAITING.

THE SHROUD MAY HAVE COME FOR ME-- BUT HE WON'T GET ME!

YOUR MEN CAN'T SEE TO SHOOT, YOU CAN'T FIND ME.

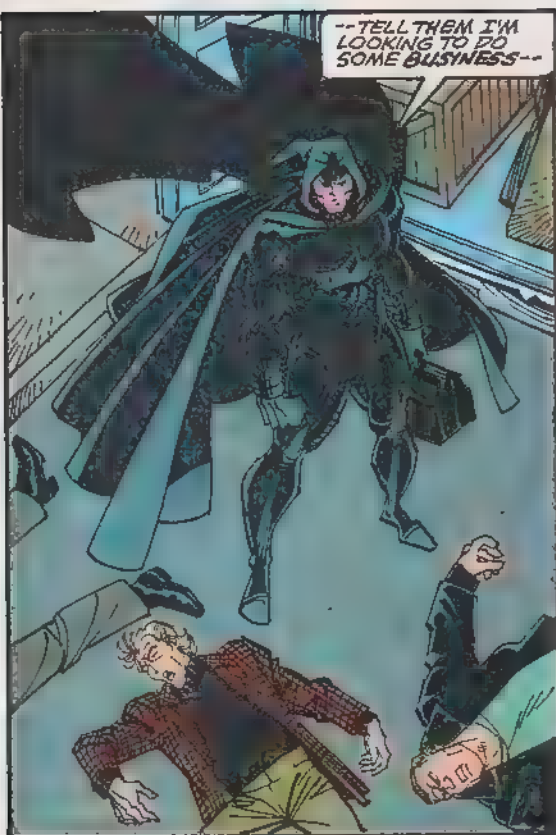
I CAN TAKE YOUR MONEY. I CAN TAKE YOUR GUNS.

IF I CHOSE, I COULD TAKE YOUR LIVES!

AND WHAT POWER ON EARTH COULD STOP ME?!

GO, MCHENRY-- LET EVERYONE KNOW THE SHROUD IS IN TOWN--

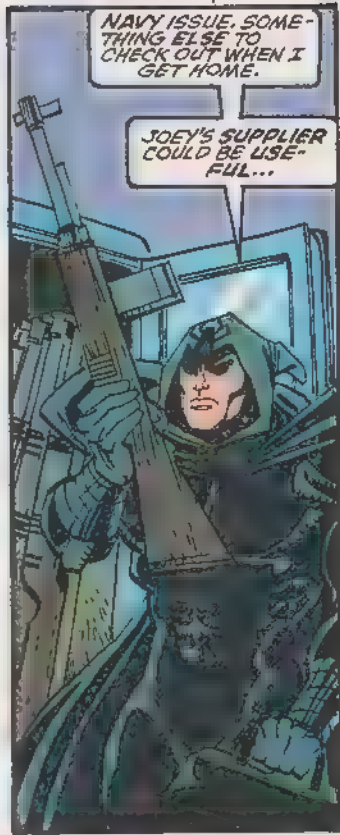




--TELL THEM I'M  
LOOKING TO DO  
SOME BUSINESS--

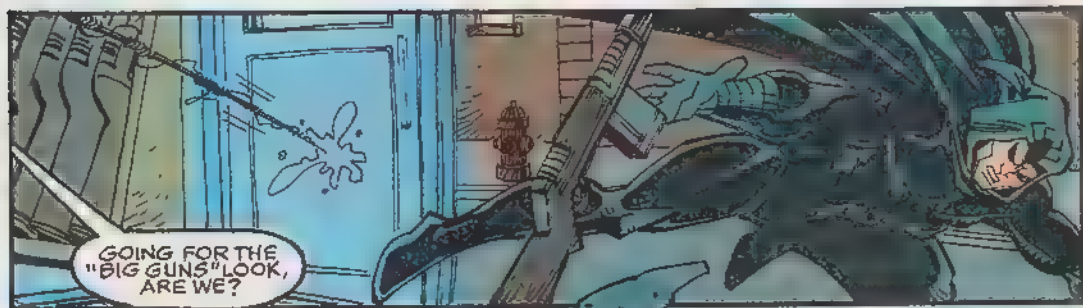


--AND NO IS NOT  
AN ACCEPTABLE  
ANSWER!

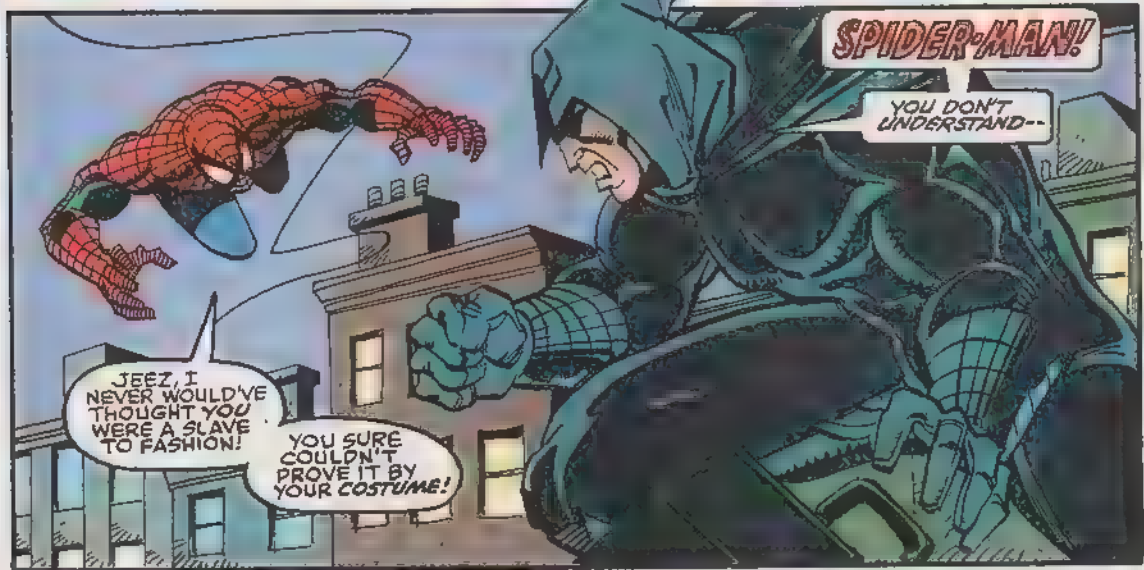


NAVY ISSUE. SOME-  
THING ELSE TO  
CHECK OUT WHEN I  
GET HOME.

JOEY'S SUPPLIER  
COULD BE USE-  
FUL...



GOING FOR THE  
"BIG GUNS" LOOK,  
ARE WE?



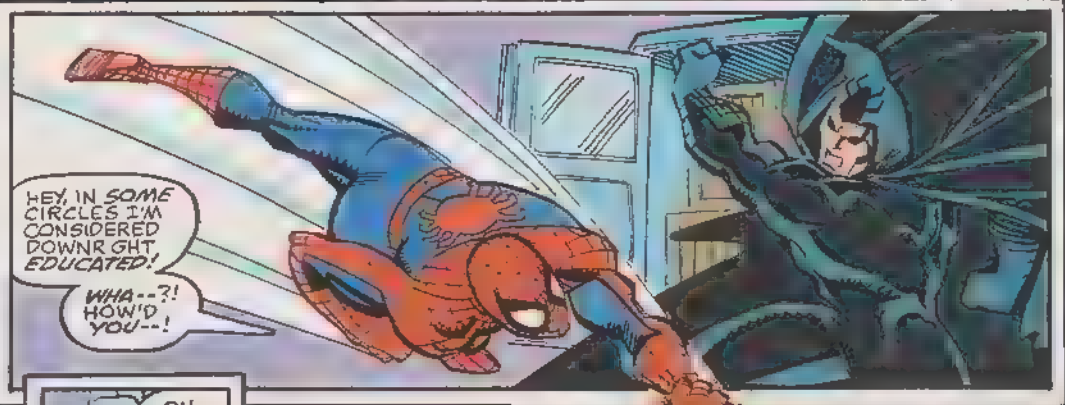
**SPIDER-MAN!**

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND--

JEEZ, I  
NEVER WOULD'VE  
THOUGHT YOU  
WERE A SLAVE  
TO FASHION!

YOU SURE  
COULDN'T  
PROVE IT BY  
YOUR COSTUME!





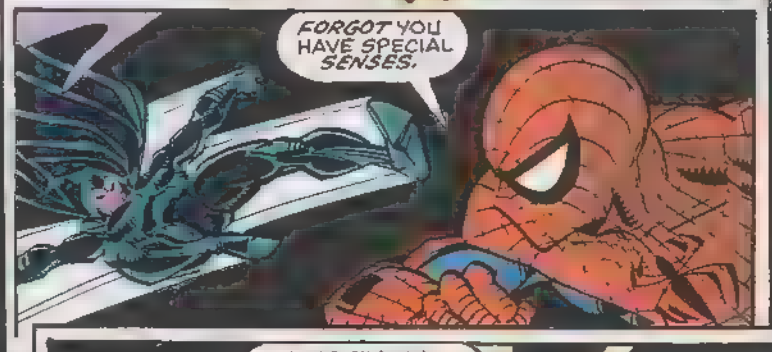
HEY, IN SOME CIRCLES I'M CONSIDERED DOWNRIGHT EDUCATED!

WHA--?! HOW'D YOU--!

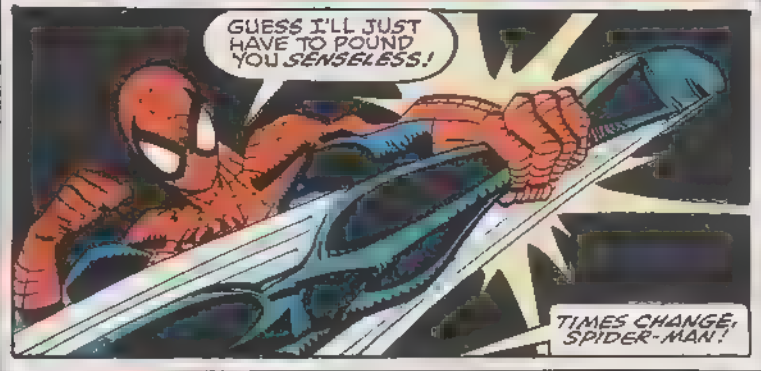


OH, YEAH.

BEEN A LONG TIME, SHROUD!

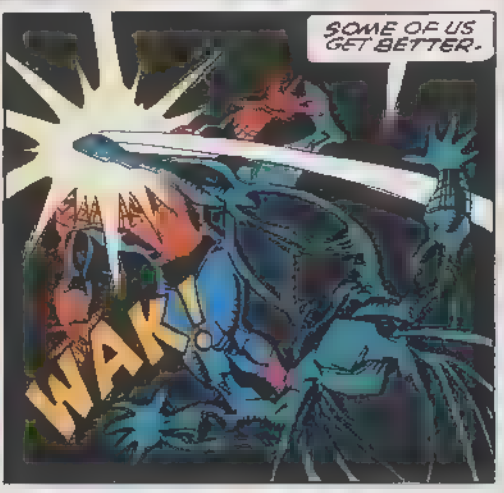


FORGOT YOU HAVE SPECIAL SENSES.

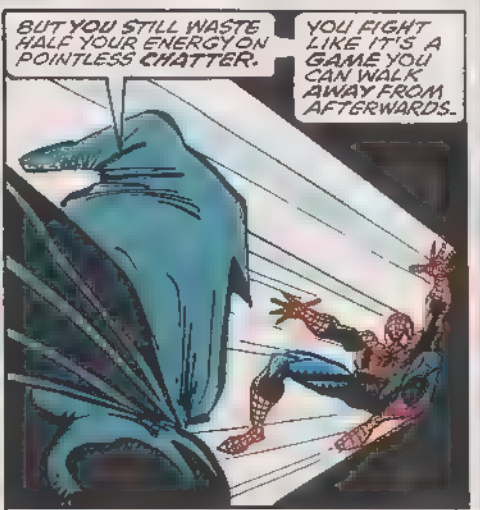


GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO POUND YOU SENSELESS!

TIMES CHANGE, SPIDER-MAN!



SOME OF US GET BETTER.

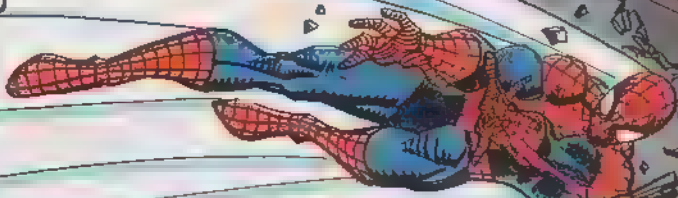


BUT YOU STILL WASTE HALF YOUR ENERGY ON POINTLESS CHATTER.

YOU FIGHT LIKE IT'S A GAME YOU CAN WALK AWAY FROM AFTERWARDS.



YOU BELONG ON THE JUNK HEAP WITH THE OTHER WORTHLESS RELICS.



WHAM!

SREEEEE

SREEEEE

BLASTED POWER OF HIS IS SERIOUSLY MESSING WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE...

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

SOME KIND OF MASKS-- FROM WHAT'S LEFT OF DR. STRANGE'S HOUSE--

THE SORCERER?! HE LIVED HERE?!

THESE OBJECTS COULD BE DEMONIC IN NATURE!

WELL, DUH! I GUESS THEY NEVER HEARD OF PERSONAL SPACE!

MAYBE I SHOULD CHANGE MY NAME TO "YOUR HOSTILE NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!"

THAT "FRIENDLY" PART KEEPS GIVING PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA...

DO WHAT YOU WANT, SPIDER-MAN.

MY DARKNESS SEEMS TO ANNOY THEM--

-- SO I'LL LEAVE THEM TO YOU.





I DON'T KNOW IF THOSE THINGS ARE A THREAT OR NOT, BUT YOU--

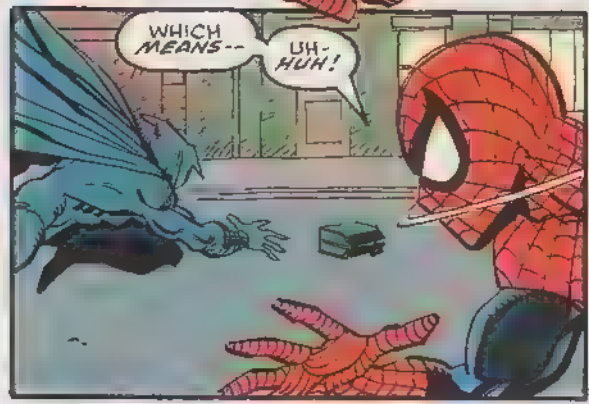
HOLD IT!

--WITH YOU THERE'S NO QUESTION!



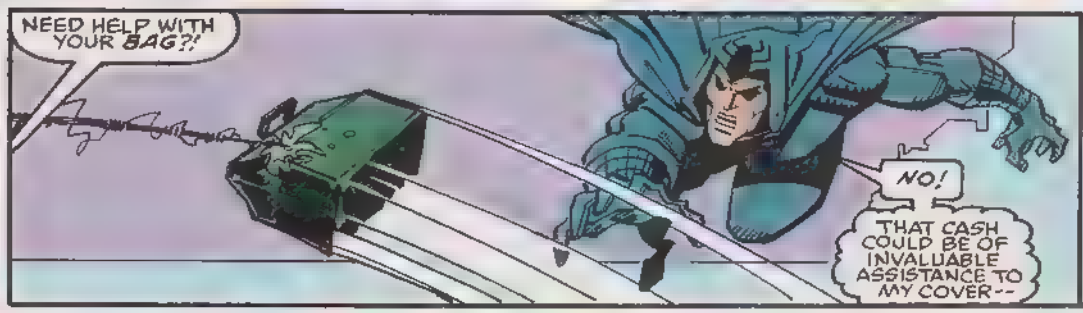
WHAT?!

DARKNESS--SCULPTED TO LOOK LIKE THE SHROUD! THE SAME TRICK HE PULLED LAST TIME!



WHICH MEANS--

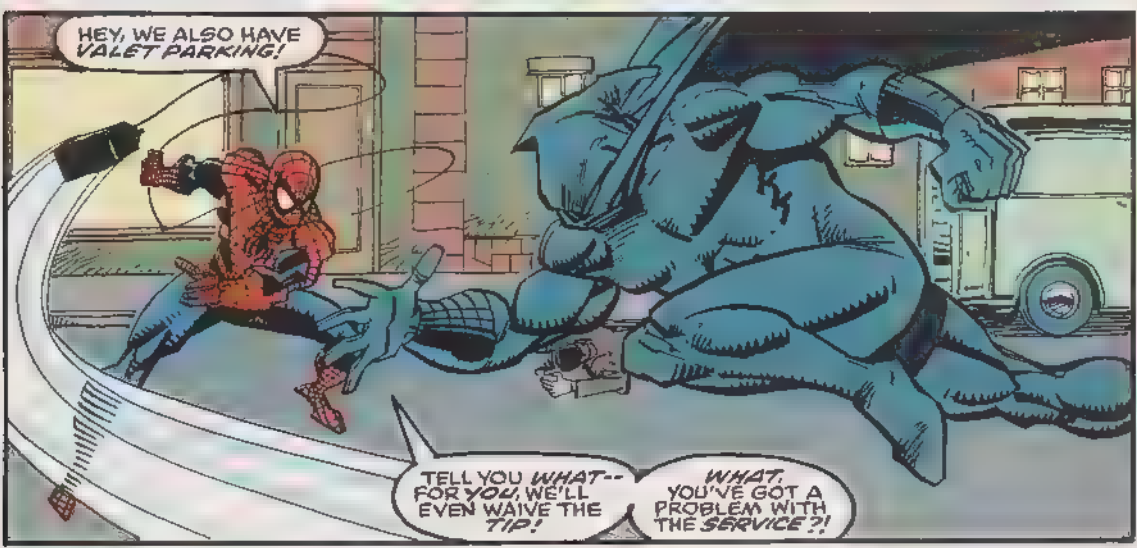
UH-HUH!



NEED HELP WITH YOUR BAG?!

NO!

THAT CASH COULD BE OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO MY COVER--

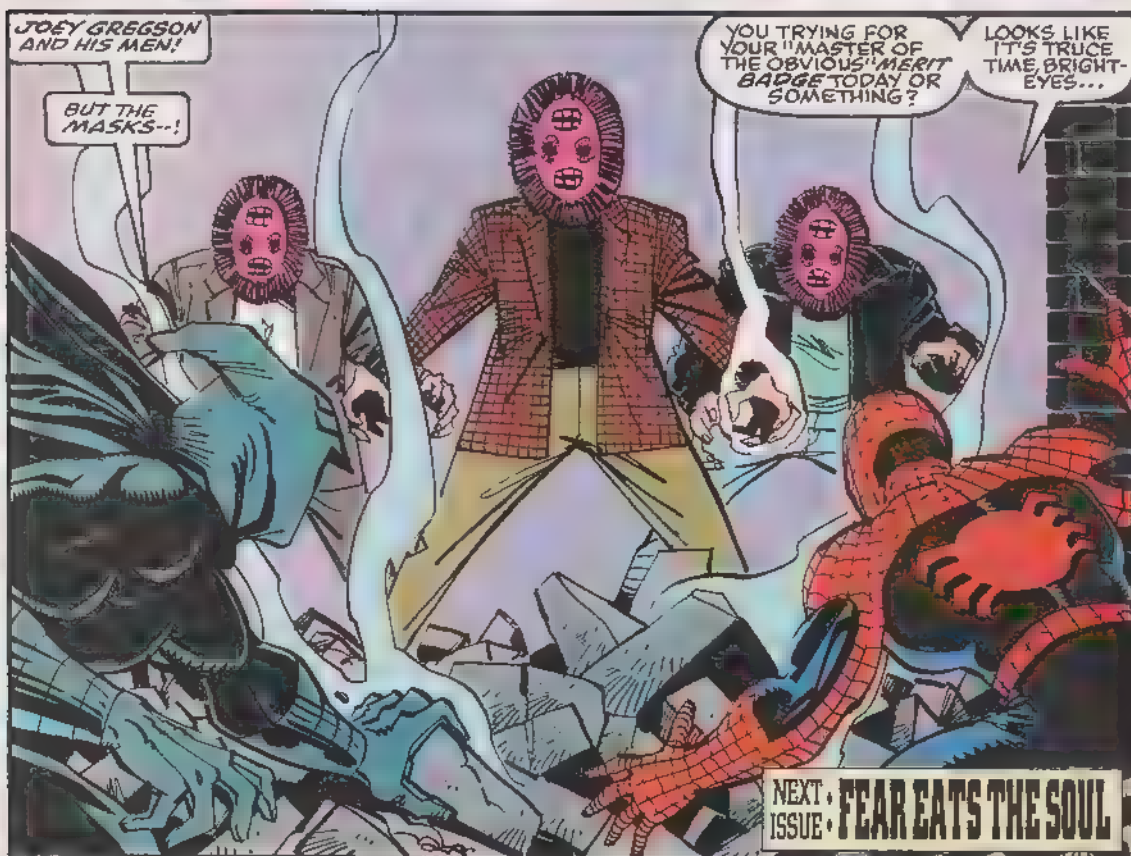
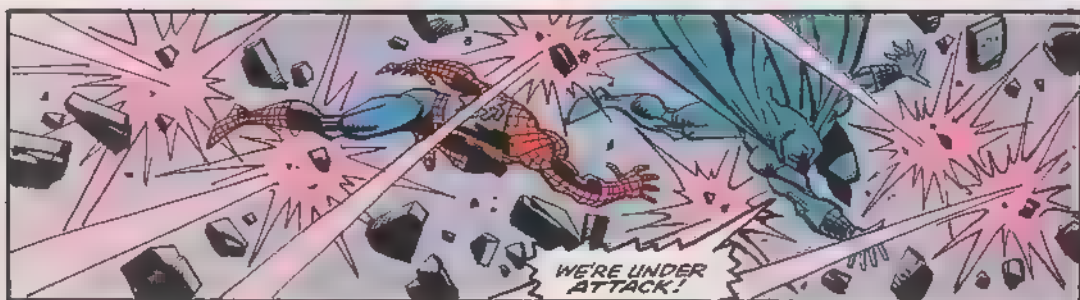
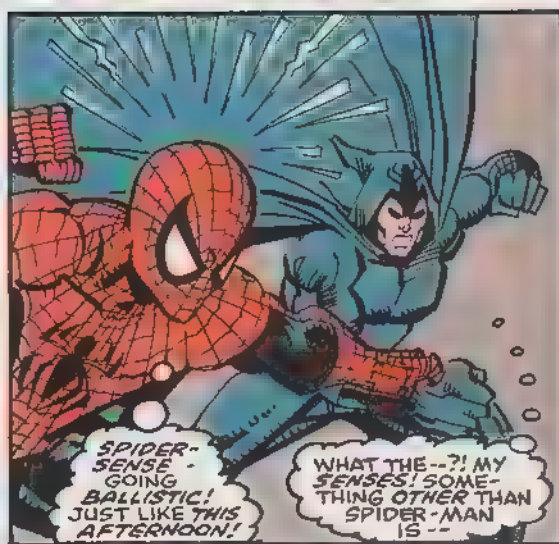
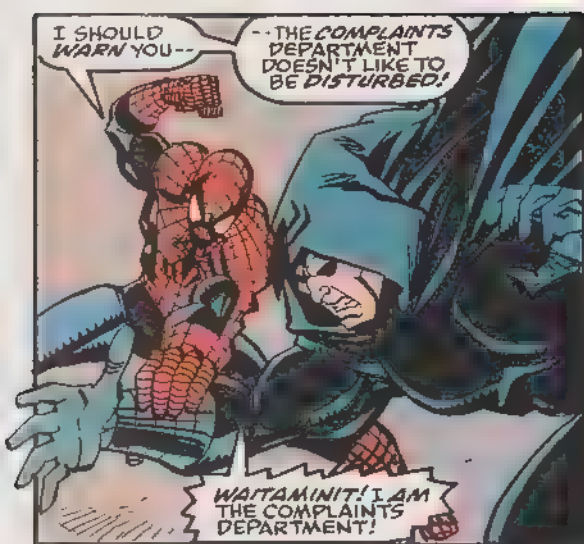


HEY, WE ALSO HAVE VALET PARKING!

TELL YOU WHAT--FOR YOU, WE'LL EVEN WAIVE THE TIP!

WHAT, YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE SERVICE?!







WHAT'S EVERYONE GAWKING AT? GET BACK TO WORK!

THIS IS A NEWSPAPER, NOT A BLASTED SIDESHOW!

MR JAMESON!

STEVEN GRANT writer  
DAVE SHARPE letterer  
DANNY FINGEROTH group editor  
WALTER MCDANIEL & VINCE EVANS artists  
MICHAEL HIGGINS colorist  
MARK POWERS editor  
TOM DEFALCO editor in chief

WE... WE THOUGHT YOU COULD BE DEAD!

YOU WERE MISSING..

IT'S NOT NONSENSE!

CAN'T A MAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO REFLECT?

UNINFORMED GOSSIP! THAT'S BEEN THE ~~RUIN~~ OF THIS PLACE!

NOW CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS!

NOBODY LAUGHS AT THE DAILY BUGLE!

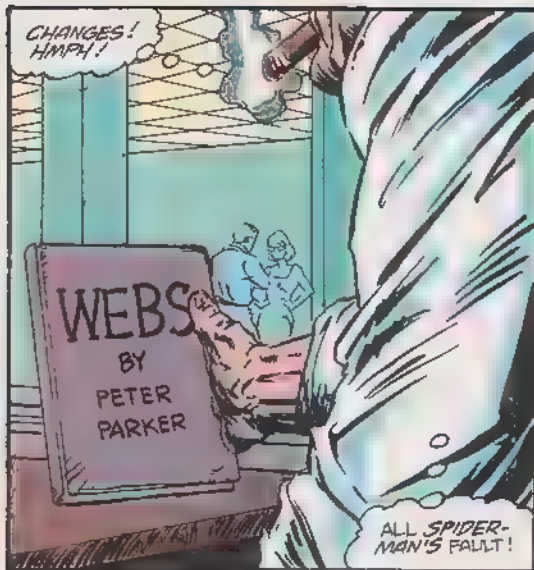
THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE!

**SLAM**

I WANT ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS IN MY OFFICE IN HALF AN HOUR, NO EXCEPTIONS!

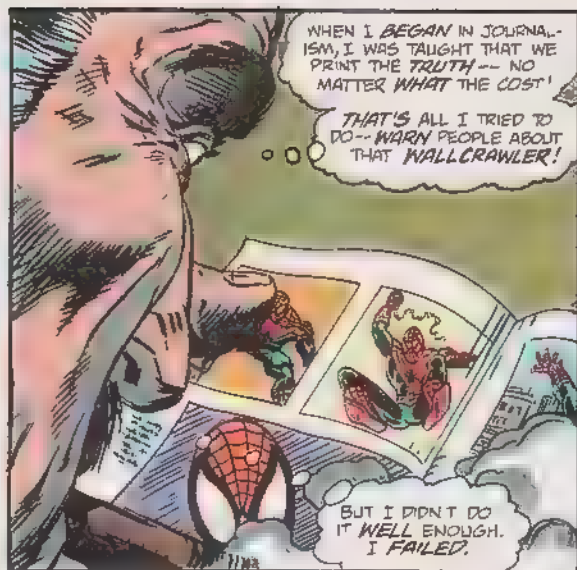
ANYONE THINKS THAT'S TOO TOUGH, REMIND THEM UNEMPLOYMENT IS TOUGHER!





CHANGES!  
HMPH!

ALL SPIDER-  
MAN'S FAULT!



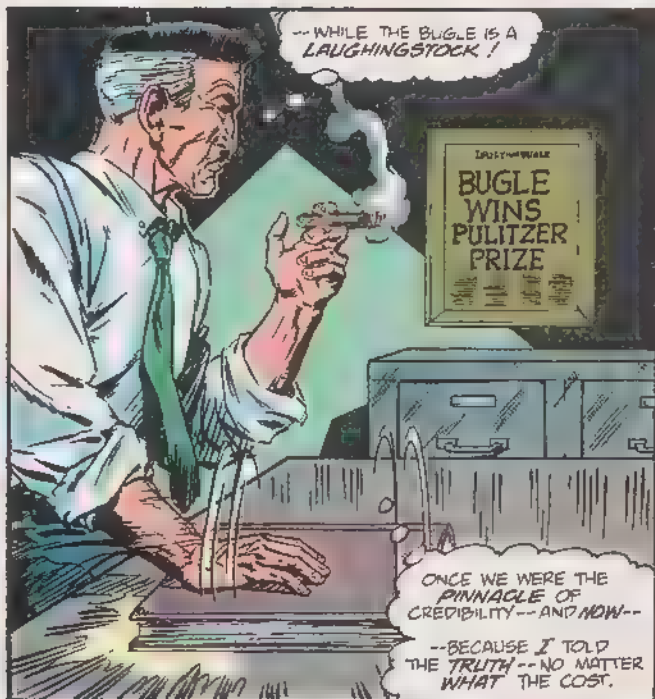
WHEN I BEGAN IN JOURNAL-  
ISM, I WAS TAUGHT THAT WE  
PRINT THE TRUTH-- NO  
MATTER WHAT THE COST!

THAT'S ALL I TRIED TO  
DO-- WARN PEOPLE ABOUT  
THAT WALLCRAWLER!

BUT I DIDN'T DO  
IT WELL ENOUGH.  
I FAILED.



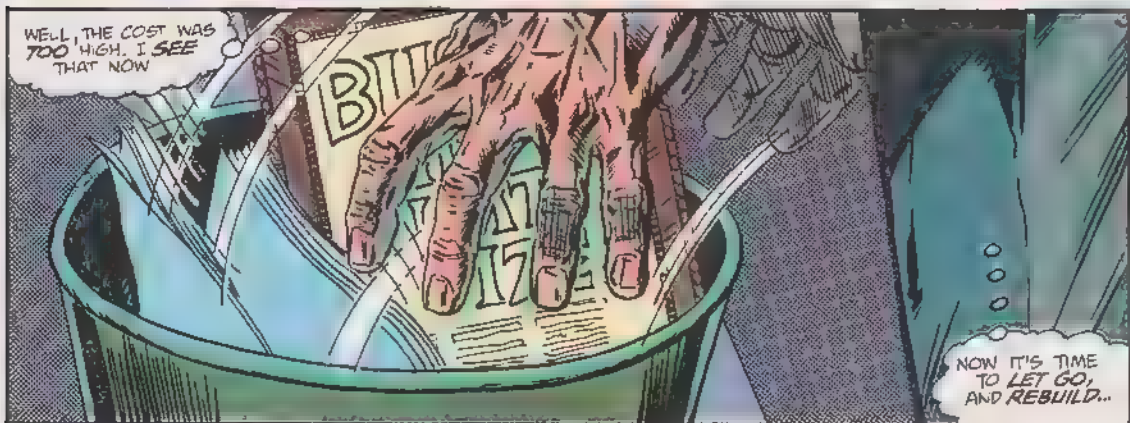
AND NOW SPIDER-MAN  
IS A CELEBRITY,  
DESPITE ALL MY EFFORTS--



--WHILE THE BUGLE IS A  
LAUGHINGSTOCK!

ONCE WE WERE THE  
PINNACLE OF  
CREDIBILITY--AND NOW--

--BECAUSE I TOLD  
THE TRUTH--NO MATTER  
WHAT THE COST.



WELL, THE COST WAS  
TOO HIGH. I SEE  
THAT NOW

NOW IT'S TIME  
TO LET GO,  
AND REBUILD...

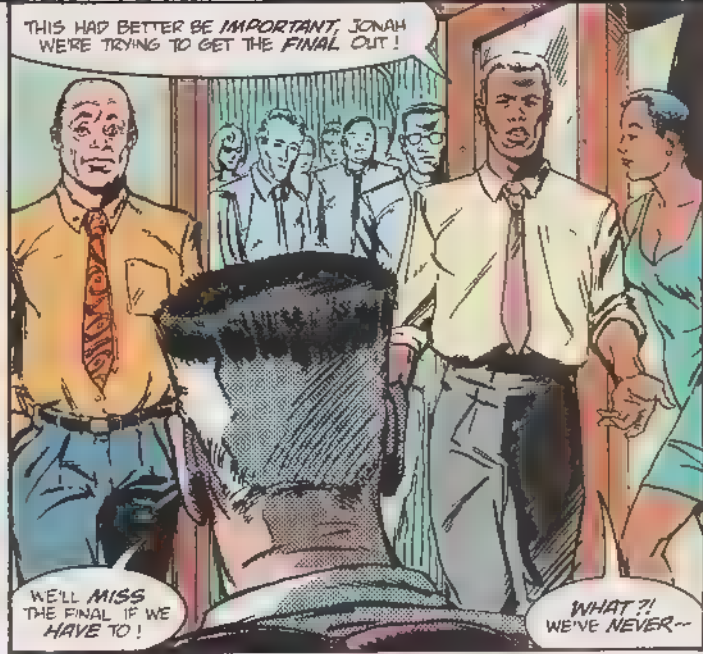




MR JAMESON--  
THEY'RE HERE!

HMM?

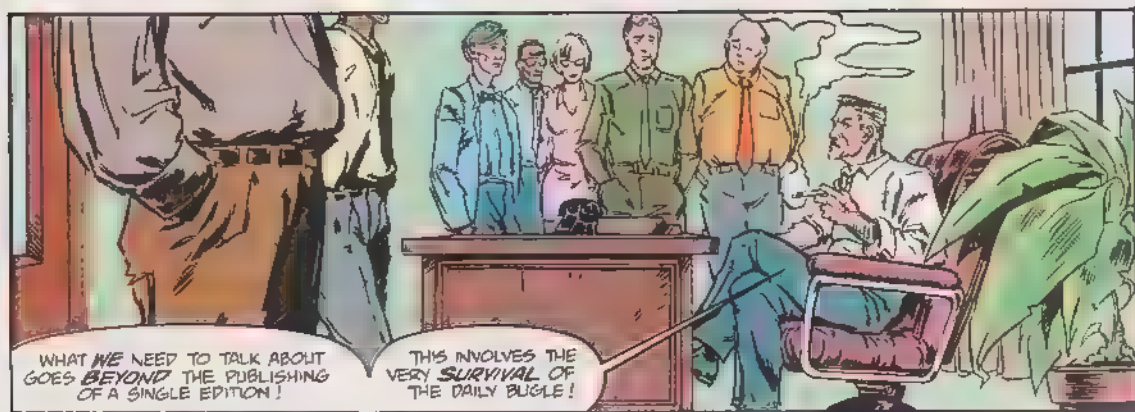
OH! SEND  
THEM IN!



THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT, JONAH  
WE'RE TRYING TO GET THE FINAL OUT!

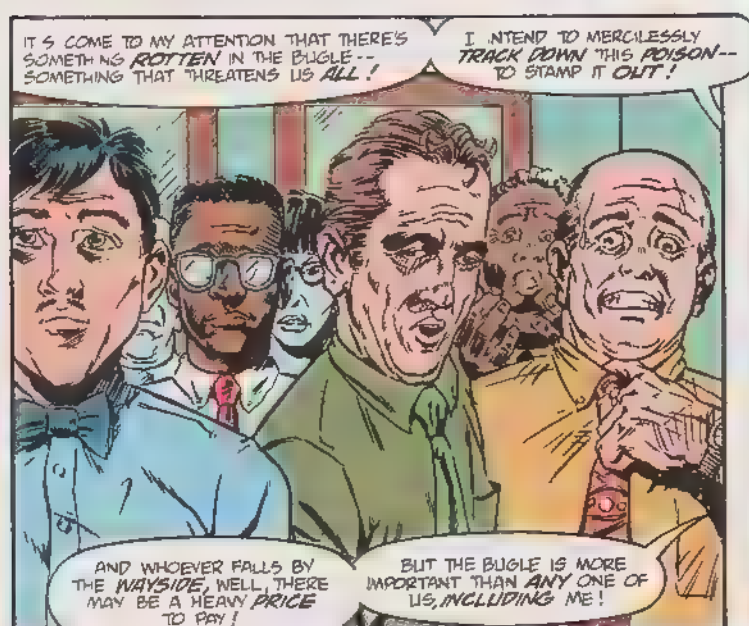
WE'LL MISS  
THE FINAL IF WE  
HAVE TO!

WHAT?!  
WE'VE NEVER--



WHAT WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT  
GOES BEYOND THE PUBLISHING  
OF A SINGLE EDITION!

THIS INVOLVES THE  
VERY SURVIVAL OF  
THE DAILY BUGLE!



IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THERE'S  
SOMETHING ROTTEN IN THE BUGLE--  
SOMETHING THAT THREATENS US ALL!

I INTEND TO MERCILESSLY  
TRACK DOWN THIS POISON--  
TO STAMP IT OUT!

AND WHOEVER FALLS BY  
THE WAYSIDE, WELL, THERE  
MAY BE A HEAVY PRICE  
TO PAY!

BUT THE BUGLE IS MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN ANY ONE OF  
US, INCLUDING ME!



DO I MAKE  
MYSELF CLEAR?!



# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## EVAN'S GATE

One of my favorite things about being an Associate Editor here at Marvel—besides getting free comics, of course—is seeing something new and exciting come together. To me, there's just nothing quite like observing a barebones concept as it tenaciously claws its way through the approval process and eventually emerges into reality. Especially when it's a project in which I was involved.

Right now, the most exciting thing I'm watching fall into place is the new **DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME**, which I start editing this month. The new creative team is already turning heads here in the Bullpen, and by the time you read this, the first issue (#60) of the all-new Doc will be on the stands for your perusal.

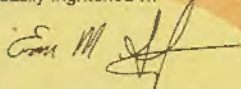
The best way I can describe our new approach is "cutting-edge retro."

A contradiction in terms, right? Not really... because although the styles of writer **David Quinn**, penciler **Melvin Rubi**, and inker **Fred Harper** are as modern as you'll find on any comic book rack today, the approach we're taking on **DOCTOR STRANGE** could still be seen as a huge step backwards.

Why? Because the original, defining aspects of the Doctor Strange character first conceived and depicted in 1963 by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**—awe-inspiring magick, danger, eeriness, mystery—are exactly what we're trying to get back to.

In other words, we intend to put the "strange" back into **DOCTOR STRANGE**.

It's already emerged into our reality. You might want to check it out—as long as you're not easily frightened...



— Evan Skolnick

**H**alloween is the holiday that most reminds us of comics. People dress in outrageous costumes, make irrational demands for treats, and then retaliate with cruel tricks if not satisfied... Sounds a lot like the way things are here around contract re-negotiation time!

But Halloween is more than this; it's also kids with blankets sitting in pumpkin patches, waiting for imaginary lions that never come... well-meaning parents stuffing apples with *Razorline* comics... and a Celtic festival welcoming the spirits of the dead and appeasing supernatural powers. It's time for that annual party at Pin-Head's place (kindly leave your body at the door)... It's time for the **Midnight Sons** and **Daughters** to have their family reunion.



But mostly it's time for us to call up a random writers and artists and pose to them the following query: If you could be any Marvel Comics character for Halloween, which one would you be? Here's what our guys and ghouls had to say.

**PUNISHER** and **WEST COAST AVENGERS** writer **Dan Abnett** said, "I would like to spend Halloween as **Tony Stark**, since he is the linchpin of our new **FORCE WORKS** book. We could stick a candle in the Iron Man helmet and save money on a pumpkin! Also, it would probably be a lot of fun to go trick or treating with the **Scarlet Witch**!"

Dan's writing partner, **Andy Lanning**, also

gave us a double-jointed answer. Andy said he would like to be the **PUNISHER**, for two reasons: "1) Because of my fondness for ghosts, ghoules, and things that go 'BRACKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA' in the night, and 2) you get to be out of your skull on Halloween!"

**BARBIE** and **SHE-HULK** inker **Barb Kaalberg** said she would be **Storm** of the **X-Men**, because "Halloween is supposed to be one dark and stormy night... I'd make sure of it!"

**Bruce Patterson**, who is inking the upcoming **NORTHSTAR** Limited Series and the **ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL**, said he would be "the **Green Goblin**." He's been my favorite since I was a little kid."

**PINHEAD** penciler **Dario Garasco, Jr.** passed on sticking any pins in his own head; instead, he chose **Sabretooth**, who he described as "one of my favorite characters to draw, especially at conventions." Dario added that he would leap and claw at the chance to draw some **Sabretooth** comics! (Bob Harras, are you listening?)

**BIKER MICE FROM MARS** writer **Bob Forward** informs us they really do celebrate Halloween on Mars! Bob said he would be the villain from his series, "Limbberger—because then I'd get to dress up as a human!"

No Halloween page would be complete without a comment from **Gene "the Dean" Colan**, one of the masters of modern horror comics. Gene's first inclination was to masquerade as **Dracula**, since "it's the longest strip I ever worked on. I did it for twelve years!" But then Gene tossed that idea back into the tomb, noting that "**Dracula**'s been resurrected too many times already!" Instead, the **Genial One** said he would be another character he has been closely associated with over the years—"I'd be **Daredevil**, especially if I could do all those acrobatic things that he does."

**FANTASTIC FOUR** and **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY** inker **Steve Montano** said he would be the **Vision**, since "he looks real mysterious. I always liked the original version of the **Vision** from the 1960s, with his red face. He was one of my favorite characters." Steve didn't mention another great thing about being the **Vision**—you get to walk through walls to steal people's Halloween candy!

Those are all the Halloween treats we have for you this year, but remember, you can treat yourself to a new batch of **Marvel Comics** every week at your favorite comic shop!

## HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **AVENGERS: TERMINATRIX** OBJECTIVE #4 OF 4: Allied against Alioth, the first time traveler!
- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION** #36: True beauty comes from within!
- ☐ **BOOK OF THE DEAD** #1 OF 4: Classic *Frankenstein* and *Man-Thing* reprints!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA: DEATHLOK LIVES**: Reprinting the final mission of the original *Deathlok*!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL: MAN WITHOUT FEAR** #3 OF 5: The evolution of Elektra!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK** #30: The new *Deathlok* vs. the old *Deathlok*!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE** #60: Doc is now a

- ☐ **Midnight Son!**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #383: Know any good Skull lawyers?
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE** #17: We're halfway through "Siege of Darkness!"
- ☐ **HELLSTORM** #9: The Mountain of Judgment finale!
- ☐ **HOKUM & HEX** #4: History of the *Razorline* heroes!
- ☐ **IRON MAN** #298: With Ultimo the Living Holocaust!
- ☐ **LAWDOG** #8: Three guest artists take *Lawdog* for a walk!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS** #144: Ghost Rider, Werewolf, Morbius... It's

- ☐ **Midnight Sons madriess!**
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT NOVEMBER 1993**: It's free!
- ☐ **METEOR MAN** #5 OF 8: Soaring beyond the movie!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #57: My friend, my enemy!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS** #42: Supergirl's got Nova's powers!
- ☐ **PUNISHER** 2099 #11: Multi-Fractor wants to give Jake multiple fractures!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER** #37: Dr. Strange joins the fight against crazy Thor!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #207: Ghost Rider does a drive-by!
- ☐ **STRANGE COMBAT TALES** #3 OF

- ☐ 4: Fighter planes battle Chinese dragons!
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWOORLD** #16: It's a whole new enterprise!
- ☐ **THOR** #469: Watch out for the Infinity Watch!
- ☐ **VENOM: THE MADNESS** #2 OF 3: Venom's crazier than Thor!
- ☐ **WAR MAN** #2 OF 2: Heavy hitting jungle action!
- ☐ **X-FORCE** #29: An X-Forcer is exterminated!
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC** #90: Pencils by Barry Windsor-Smith!
- ☐ **X-MEN UNLIMITED** #3: Sabretooth cuts loose!





PLEASE! JONAH! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!



BUT... I'VE HAD... YOU KNOW... DEBTS...

IT'S A DISEASE, I KNOW... I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET HELP...

I... I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK... I PROMISE...



ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE BEEN EMBEZZLING, BARRY?

THANKS FOR BRINGING IT UP BARRY, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

YOU KNOW I HAVE... PLEASE... DON'T TOY WITH ME ANYMORE.

GLORY, COULD YOU CALL THE POLICE? SEND THEM TO MY OFFICE WHEN THEY GET HERE.



FACT IS-- OUR STANDARDS AROUND HERE HAVE GOTTEN SLIPSHOD! WE LET ANYTHING GO OUT IN THE NAME OF JOURNALISM!

SO WE CHANGE, OR WE DIE!

AND IF WE CAN'T CHANGE, WE DESERVE TO DIE!



JONAH, YOU'RE INSULTING THESE PEOPLE-- AND YOU'RE INSULTING ME! AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, I'VE DEMANDED AS STRINGENT STANDARDS AS MY AUTHORITY WOULD ALLOW FROM EVERYONE!

BY THE WAY, MARLA IS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!

MY WIFE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, JOE.



ALL I'M DOING IS PASSING  
ALONG A MESSAGE!

DOES ALL THIS MEAN  
YOU WANT MY  
RESIGNATION?!



JOE-- JOE! I'M NOT CASTING BLAME!  
I'M AS GUILTY AS ANYONE!

IT'S THE AGE WE'RE LIVING IN! IT'S  
EASY TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT'S GOOD  
AND WHAT'S BAD-- TO PURSUE PERSONAL  
GOALS IN THE NAME OF JOURNALISM!  
I'VE STARED INTO MY OWN PERSONAL ABYSS--  
AND REALIZED **SOMETHING** HAD TO CHANGE.



BUT NO ONE WANTS ANYONE  
TO QUIT!

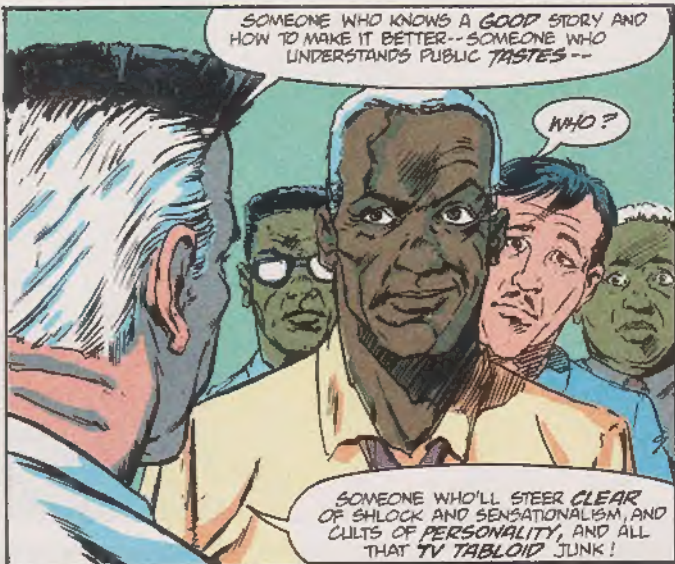


MY IDEA WAS TO BRING IN A NEW  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR TO WORK  
UNDER YOU-- SOMEONE WITH  
YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE  
NEWS BUSINESS--

WHO?

SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A GOOD STORY AND  
HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER-- SOMEONE WHO  
UNDERSTANDS PUBLIC TASTES--

WHO?



SOMEONE WHO'LL STEER CLEAR  
OF SHOCK AND SENSATIONALISM, AND  
CULTS OF PERSONALITY, AND ALL  
THAT TV TABLOID JUNK!

SOMEONE  
LIKE ME.

LIKE  
WHO?



ME.  
I MEAN  
ME.

I'M YOUR NEW  
EXECUTIVE  
EDITOR.

AND I'LL  
PROMISE  
YOU THIS--

--NO ONE WILL LAUGH AT THE  
DAILY BUGLE WHILE I'M  
AROUND...



NEVER  
THE END!



# SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS  
EDITOR  
DANNY FINGEROTH  
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Web-Heads,

I've been reading the "Maximum Carnage" storyline and I think the storyline was great! I only have one complaint (who doesn't?): the story was too long.

I have a few questions for you guys...

1) I haven't seen Spidey and Wolverine work together in a while. Are you going to bring them together?

2) When are you going to kill the Vulture already?

3) Oh, please, oh please, will you stop Mary Jane from smoking? Her smoking is driving me nuts.

Well, until Mary Jane divorces Spidey and marries Ghost Rider, make mine Marvel!

Robert Jackson Jr.  
6 Glen Clair Dr.  
Trenton, NJ 08618

If you've been following the X-books lately, you know by now that Wolverine isn't in shape to work with anyone on anything.

The Vulture isn't in particularly good shape himself these days, but that's about to change—big time! Check out AMAZING for the full story!

A resolution to the MJ/Smoking saga? Read next month's AMAZING!

Dear Spectacular Spider-Mail,

Hill! This is my first letter that I've written to you. I just wanted to let you know that I enjoyed issue #203. I was never so moved in my life as when I read that issue. It brought many tears.

Like Shriek and Carnage, I was abused. I had no one to turn to when I was growing up. Many times I cried and wondered if I would survive.

Throughout the years, I turned to Spider-Man to escape my troubles. He taught me to face my pain and gain strength from it. He taught me: *Never give up!*

You said it best in the pages of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. The power and the decency of a single human heart can make a difference! Keep up the good work!

David Diaz  
(Address withheld by request)

David, what can we say? You've given us the greatest compliment we've ever received. We'll continue and try our best to create stories that not only entertain, but can have a profound impact on our readers.

Dear Spectacular Spider-Writers,

The cover for #203 was awesome. I waited until the story "Maximum Carnage" was over before I wrote, and I'll tell you, Carnage is my favorite character in the Marvel Universe—even over Spider-Man and Wolverine. I'm glad you guys brought him back. Every week when the next parts came out I had to rush to the comic store to get mine because not only did I want to read it, but to make sure there were some left! But now on to #203 again. I like the way it turned the tide, but don't you think there were too many against Carnage and his

team? Here are a few questions:

1) What exactly is the Alpha Magni-Illuminizer, and if it is what I think it is, how could a machine do that?

2) Why did Spider-Man stay to fight while the A.M.I. was being built? Was it because it's his comic, or because he thought he could handle those four by himself? I don't think so. Just a little bit unrealistic.

3) I noticed Shriek turned good: not a bad idea as long as you plan to use her again. You do plan to use her again, don't you?

4) I would also like to know: is that the end of Carrion and the Spider-Doppelganger?

I really want to get an answer to my questions. Thanks. And until the last issue of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, make mine Marvel!

Iran White  
870 Versailles Dr.  
Hollister, CA 95023

Whew! That's a lot of questions, Iran. Let's see what we can do! For starters, the Alpha Magni-Illuminizer is a device which increases the activity of alpha waves, waves which occur naturally within the brain as a natural calming mechanism. As science often imitates nature, so too did the heroes mimic a natural brain function, albeit at an increased rate. Is that better? The reason Spidey stuck around and took a beating while the A.M.I. was being built was to give the bad guys something to focus on so they wouldn't kill any innocents while the other heroes were constructing their weapon. Shriek will indeed return in next year's WEB ANNUAL -- if not sooner.

Dear Spectacular Spider-Mail:

I am writing to you in response to one of the letters that was published in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #203 ("Carnage" part 13). The letter stated nothing but mindless putdowns of the "Carnage" series. It stated that the series was too long and drawn out. Well, maybe it's just that some people's minds can't handle fourteen issues. I myself wish that this series would go on forever! I think it's the greatest!

The Carnage/Venom series is what actually started me buying comics again, and boy, am I ever buying them. I'm hooked! I can't get enough of the terrific trio (Spidey, Venom, Carnage). I am constantly going into the local comic book store searching for back issues which include them.

But back to the subject of the letter. It also stated that the series lacked realism, and went as far as to say that if Carnage really killed that many people, the National Guard would have been called in.

I just want to say one thing: you are reading a comic! If you want realism, go buy a newspaper. There's plenty of realism in there. I think the reason most people read comics is to escape reality. I really hope you guys at Marvel continue what you are doing just as you are. I hope the next series with Carnage and Venom goes on for one

hundred issues, because as far as I'm (and a lot of people are) concerned, these guys are the best thing to happen to comics in years. Keep up the good work. Please.

Glen Jackson  
520 Humphrey St.  
Monroe, MI 48161

A rematch?! Not just yet, Glen, but rest assured, the conflict between Spidey, Venom, and Carnage is far from over. Keep watching, and while you're at it, keep an eye out for the various Venom solo projects that keep popping up; next up for him is VENOM: THE MADNESS—a three-issue limited series by Ann Nocenti and Kelly Jones.

Dear Rob and Danny,

Sal has won a Scott Ziemba Award for his artwork on J.M. DeMattels's swan song. The cover was phenomenal, to say the least. I guess less is more in this case. Page twelve said it all for me. It was one of the best one-page panels that I have seen since last issue. Overall, a great ending to the crossover that wouldn't die.

Scott Ziemba  
1210 W. George  
Chicago, IL 60657

We're proud to display a no-substitutes-accepted Scott Ziemba award on our mantelpiece for jealous editors to see! Thanks, Scott! But what did you mean "the crossover that wouldn't die?" Granted, "Maximum Carnage" was one of the longer crossovers we've ever done, but we think the story was worth the use of extra space! You wouldn't want us to show only part of action, would you? And by the way, DeMattels lovers: J.M. did SPIDER-MAN #'s 37-39 ("Light the Night"), in case you didn't see it. And he'll soon be returning to regular Spider-work in a major way. More on that soon!

Item! You may have noticed our "thanks!" caption on page one. As a parting shot, I'd like to recommend to each and every one of you to start picking up DR. STRANGE—that is, if you're looking for a wild, totally different take on a classic Marvel character. The new creative team of David Quinn (writer) and Melvin Rubi (penciler) will take you on a ride you've never before been on! You've heard this kind of plug before, but I mean it! Give it a try!

—Mark

NEXT ISSUE: What are the Screaming Masks of Cytorrak? And can the Spidey/Shroud tag-team find out—and defeat them—before the masks possess them?